

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /087 W  
-----291055Z 105228 /11

R 290420Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3392  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0505

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, BG, SU, US  
SUBJECT: MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ADVISERS CRITICIZES US ACTION  
IN 1971; MFA REACTS QUICKLY TO DENY THIS BDG POLICY

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR WHO IS ON FIELD  
TRIP, FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN CALLED IN  
DCM JANUARY 28, TO DENY THAT A STATEMENT MADE PREVIOUS  
DAY BY MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL, ABUL  
FAZAL, ABOUT ROLE OF ENTERPRISE IN 1971, WAS BDG  
POLICY.

2. JANUARY 28 ISSUE OF LEADING (BUT INDEPENDENT)  
BENGALI DAILY ITTEFAQ CARRIED HEADLINE "U.S. SENT 7TH FLEET  
IN SUPPORT OF GENOCIDE DURING LIBERATION WAR - ABUL  
FAZAL". FAZAL WAS SPEAKING AT SESSION ORGANIZED BY  
BANGLADESH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY TO MARK FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN  
THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO ITTEFAQ, ABUL FAZAL  
PRAISED ROLE OF SOVIETS IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE PERIOD AND IN  
HELPING BANGLADESH AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND SAID "WHEN  
IMPERIALIST AMERICA WAS CONSPIRING AGAINST OUR LIBERATION  
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WAR IN MANY WAYS, IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION WHICH USED ITS  
VETO POWER THREE TIMES IN THE U.N. TO FORESTALL THE U.S.  
CONSPIRACY AND IT SENT ITS FLEET TO DETER THE U.S.  
SEVENTH FLEET WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO SUPPORT GENOCIDE  
IN BANGLADESH".

3. THIS PORTION OF ABDU FAZAL'S REMARKS WAS NOT REPORTED

IN EITHER ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY OR IN THE OTHER BENGALI PAPERS ALTHOUGH PRAISE BY ABUL FAZAL AND BY AKBAR KABIR (ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL WHO WAS CHIEF SPEAKER) FOR SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN 1971 AND AFTER WAS REPORTED. ABUL FAZAL IS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY AND WAS SUBSTITUTING FOR THE PRESIDENT, BENGUM SUFIA KAMAL, WHO DID NOT ATTEND.

4. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE US THAT THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY ABUL FAZAL WERE NOT THE POLICY OF THE BDG AND THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT ITTEFAQ (USUALLY REGARDED AS FAVORABLE TOWARD THE U.S. AND THE WEST) HAD PUBLISHED THEM, AND THAT SO PROMINENTLY. ITTEFAQ WAS AN INDEPENDENT PAPER, NOT CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT. HUSAIN SAID THE EVENTS MENTIONED BY ABUL FAZAL WERE IN THE PAST AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND THE U.S. WERE GOOD AND IMPROVING AND SUCH WAS THE POLICY OF THE BDG. HUSAIN ALSO REMARKED THAT FAZAL IS IN HIS MID-SEVENTIES (HINTING AT A BIT OF SENILITY) AND IMPLIED THAT AS HIS RESPONSIBILITY WAS EDUCATION HE WAS WELL OUT OF HIS DEPTH WHEN MAKING THE REMARKS.

5. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE TALKED WITH EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF ITTEFAQ, WHO DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY AS ARTICLE WAS SET IN PRINT ON HIS DAY OFF. ITTEFAQ ALSO CARRIED ON FRONT PAGE TWO ITEMS WHICH WERE MILDLY CRITICAL OF SOVIETS, A SITUATION MORE IN KEEPING WITH PAPER'S GENERAL TONE.

6. COMMENT: IT IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY FOR FOREIGN SECRETARY TO CALL US IN TO APOLOGIZE FOR AN ITEM IN THE PRESS  
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(WE HAVE NOT RECENTLY HAD TO GO IN WITH A COMPLAINT). HIS SENSITIVITY IS NO DOUBT BASED ON HIS AND BDG'S DESIRE TO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE BENEFITS BDG HOPES TO DERIVE FROM THESE. IT CLEARLY IS NOT BDG'S DESIRE TO HAVE SUPERANNUATED ADVISOR QUEER THE PITCH.  
MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009